being organized where developers, countries with srength in hydro power development, multi lateral agencies and financial institutions would be invited with the objective of identifying projects for the preparation of DPRs and subsequent development.

A Committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri Harish Salve, Solicitor General of India to suggest ways and means for increasing transparency and streamlining contract management in hydro projects.This is aimed at reduction in time and cost over runs associated with hydro projects and in turn to lower capital costs.

A Three Stage clearance process for new hydro projecs has been introduced. This facilitates thorough preparation of DPRs so as to minimize possibilities of geological surprises with land acquisition and proper development of infrastructure including roads and bridges being done in parallel after establishment of feasibility and commercial viability of a project. Development of necesary infrastructure before award of major contract packages is expected to result in reduction of the gestation period of hydro projects and consequently lower costs.

An effective system of review of catchment area treatment as well as compensatory afforestation has been introduced. In addition, a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) for compensatory afforestation has been planned which would create a land bank from which credits could be taken for large power projects.These measures are designed to take care of environmental concerns relating to large hydro projects.

Involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions in Disaster Management

*342. SHRI LALU PRASAD: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have taken some steps to involve the Panchayati Raj Institutions and urban local bodies in the mitigation and management of disasters; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE INTHE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) A comprehensive disaster management mechanism would require the coordination of effort at all levels, including Panchayati Raj Institutions and Urban Local Bodies. Disaster management being in the domain of the States, the Central Government has sensitized and State Governments about the imperative of strengthening the disaster management machinery at various tiers of administration.

Hike in Investment in Power Sector

*343. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to make large investments in power sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whetherTamil Nadu is being included in such investments;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) to (e) The 16th Electric Power Survey of the Central Electricity Authority has estimated that about 1,00,000 MW of additional capacity would be required in order to meet power on demand by 2012.

For the 10th Plan, the Government has taken a conscious policy decision to step up public investment in power sector recognizing that commercial viability needs to be restored in the sector through reforms after which alone it would be realistic to expect a significant increase in private investment. In the 9th Plan, while the target for the private sector was approximately 17,500 MW, only about 5,100 MW was actually achieved.

For the 10th Plan, a capacity addition targei of 41,000 MW has been fixed which includes about 22,800 MW of central sector projects. The state sector and the private sector would contribute about 11,150 MW and 7,100 MW, respectively.